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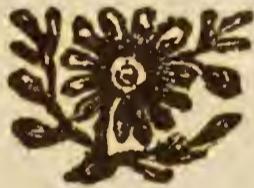
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A N
A C C O U N T
O F
EAST-FLORIDA.
W I T H
R E M A R K S on its future Importance
to TRADE and COMMERCE.

*Hic segetes, illic veniunt felicius uvæ :
Arborei fructus alibi, atque injussa virescunt
Gramina.* VIRG. GEORG.



L O N D O N :

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EPJCIB

TO
The MOST HONOURABLE
C H A R L E S
MARQUIS of ROCKINGHAM.

FIRST LORD of the TREASURY,

&c. &c. &c.

JOHN CARTER BROWN

MY LORD,

As the commercial interests
of Great-Britain are
weighed by your Lordship daily,
in order that they may be pro-
moted, and a thorough know-
ledge of his majesty's foreign
dominions is sought after, with
a view to the public service, I
flatter myself, that an account

a 2 of

DEDICATION.

of a new colony, of which there is none as yet published, will have the honour of meeting with your Lordship's approbation.

During my residence in East-Florida, I employed myself in acquiring a knowledge of that country: I made myself acquainted, as far as my stay there would permit, with its soil and navigable rivers, its climate and natural productions. I can assure your Lordship, that my pursuit was made agreeable by the satisfactory evidences found, both of the goodness of the soil, and the healthiness of the climate.

In

DEDICATION.

In its climate it has the advantage of South-Carolina and Georgia; and from being nearer the sun than those colonies, will, probably, be found superior to them in the produce of rice, indigo, silk, cotton, &c. If I am partial to East-Florida, it is not for want of knowing other countries, either in Europe or America, for I have compared it with them. I suspect myself the less of this foible, because other gentlemen, who know the country, rate the advantages to be expected from this colony higher than I do.

MEN OF CHANCELLORSHIP
THEIR PAPERS

DEDICATION.

I have no views in publishing the following sheets, but the benefit and advantages Great-Britain may reap, by encouraging and promoting this young colony. And I inscribe them to your Lordship, because whatever is calculated for such a purpose, cannot fail to gain your Lordship's attention and countenance. I am, with the greatest respect,

My LORD,

Your Lordship's most humble

and most obedient servant,

WILLIAM STORK.

INTRODUCTION.

WHEN any new matter is laid before the public, there is no doubt but its reception depends not only upon the real merits of what is proposed, but in a great measure, upon the prepossessions already entertained upon that subject. The author of the following account of East-Florida, cannot but be sensible, how much his design, to make the nation acquainted with that country, is discour-

B . . . raged,

raged, by the prejudices, which at present prevail against it. The truth of the matter is, that this country is very little known in Europe: even the Spaniards, who from indolence, and a fear of the Indians, seldom ventured beyond the lines of St. Augustine, made themselves but little acquainted with it. Its broad sandy beach makes a disadvantageous appearance to ships that sail along this coast; and the accounts of mariners have, for this reason, represented it as barren and useless.

useless. The several concurrent accounts of the unhealthiness and infertility of West-Florida, which seem but too well founded; have had no small effect, to induce a belief in many persons, that the whole of Florida, ceded to Great-Britain, is little better than a sandy desert. Prejudices once entertained, are not easily overcome; the lights offered to remove them must be strong, in order to be convincing.

The design of this work is not only to fix the attention of the ministry upon an

object of great national importance ; but also to point out to individuals, especially to persons of a middling fortune, to take up grants from the crown, of lands in East-Florida ; where, the climate, soil, and produce considered, the lands are of no less value than in the islands of the West-Indies.

The author knows but of two persons now in England, besides himself, (they are fortunately both in parliament) who are actually acquainted with this country. One of them is the noble lord

lord whose travels through the continent of America, have been made with so much benefit to the public. The other is Mr. Denys Rolle; who has already made a considerable settlement upon St. Juan's River, west of Augustine.

The importance of East-Florida, in a national view, depends upon these two grounds; first, its fertility, in producing such articles of commerce, as are particularly wanted by Great-Britain: secondly, upon its convenience, from its situation

and other circumstances, to carry on a beneficial commerce with the Spanish settlements in time of peace ; and to intercept, and cut off their trade in time of war.

As to the fertility of East-Florida, without entering into the detail of its productions, which shall be reserved for the body of the work ; I here propose only to make some general remarks with reference to this head ; and must intreat the reader for a while to suspend his opinion, and not take it implicitly for granted, that that part of

of North-America, at present so little known, which lies to the south of Georgia, differs in its soil from the rest of the continent; or is unfit for such productions, as correspond with the nature of its climate.

In North-America we meet with every sort of climate; and in one part or other, it is capable of yielding every valuable production. If it be asked, which part of this continent is the best, the question is too general to receive a determinate answer. We know indeed,

deed, that the soil of Newfoundland is, from the nature of the climate, incapable of yielding a produce, equally valuable with cotton, indigo, or sugar. We may go further, and for the European trade, without difficulty, prefer the climate of Carolina and Georgia, to that of Canada or Nova-Scotia.

If we take a view of America, or even of the globe of the earth, we shall find the northern, even the temperate climates, which are most agreeable to live in, are

are the least adapted to the purposes of trade with Europe; where the climate being of the same nature, of course yields nearly the same productions. We shall see this illustrated, by comparing the produce of the two small islands of St. Christopher, and Rhode-Island, both of them well settled, and well cultivated; both fertile, and almost of the same size; the principal difference betwixt them consisting in this, that the former is situated in lat. 17. and the latter in 41. let an estimate

C be

be made of the annual exports of each ; by comparing them together we discover at once the difference that is made by climate only : the exports of the former are of great value, and of the latter of very little.

Upon the continent itself we cannot but be sensible that the southern colonies, though the latest settled, and therefore the farthest from the best state of cultivation, yield more valuable articles of trade than the northern colonies ; and (the number of inhabitants considered)

dered) greatly surpass them in the amount of their exports.

The colony of Georgia, which from being a barrier province, and other circumstances, had, when first settled, many disadvantages to struggle with ; yet the rapid increase, which it has lately made in its exports, affords sufficient proofs that its climate is perfectly adapted to the purposes, both for European and American commerce ; and fit for rice, silk, and indigo ; which, sugar excepted, constitute the most

valuable article of trade. In New-England, to say nothing of Canada and Nova-Scotia, where the winters are still more severe, the earth is covered with snow at least three months in the year ; the rigour of the climate puts an end to all vegetation ; the beasts of the field require to be sheltered from the inclemencies of the weather, and be sustained with fodder, laid by in summer : even the laborious hand of industry is in this season of the year destitute of all useful employment.

During

During the same period, the vegetation in Carolina and Georgia affords sufficient food for cattle ; no shelter is required for them ; the lakes and rivers are not frozen, and the garden vegetables contribute greatly to make a plenty of sustenance.

I have dwelt the longer upon a comparison of the northern with the southern colonies, in order that by shewing the manifest superiority of the latter, in a commercial view, no surprize may be felt at the representation

tation given of East-Florida; in which all persons concur who know that country, and are also acquainted with the proper cultivation of it.

If we carry the eye along the eastern coast of North-America, from Hudson's-bay, down to the island of Cuba ; which lies a little to the south of the Cape of Florida, as we draw nearer the sun, the southern commercial productions generally become better, and of more intrinsick worth. It is not only in sugar and indigo, that Cuba surpasses all the English

English settlements, lying upon the continent, but in all other productions, that depend principally upon the power of the sun. And in this respect, East-Florida hath the advantage of Carolina and Georgia, as much as Cuba has the advantage of East-Florida.

In order to judge of the produce to be expected from a fresh soil, well supplied with navigable rivers, in the climate of East-Florida, let us consider the rest of the globe, lying in the same latitude, and we find Egypt,
Arabia

Arabia Felix, Persia, India, China, and Japan; of which China is the only country, that has a tolerable government; yet it must be acknowledged, that all of them are, or have been, famous for their riches and fertility. When we speak, as it were, proverbially, of the riches of the east, we can allude to no other country than those that have been mentioned.

As to the situation of Florida, in respect of the Spanish trade, it need only be observed, that the Spaniards are too lazy to supply them-

themselves even with necef-
faries ; that the Havannah,
one of their richest ports, is
only a few days sail from St.
Augustine, and of course, is
much nearer to the capes of
Florida, which lie directly
opposite to that celebrated
harbour. The trade winds,
which perpetually blow with-
in the tropics, from east to
west, render the communi-
cation betwixt the Havan-
nah and St. Augustine al-
ways easy, as they lie, in
respect to each other, north
and south.

As to the situation of Florida, with a view to surprize the Spanish ships in time of war, the trade winds oblige the register ships and galleons from Carthagena, Porto Bello, and Vera Cruz, the rich cargoes whereof are very well known, to return to Europe through the gulph of Florida, and to call at the port of the Havanah, in their way to Old Spain. The strong current that constantly runs from the east, between the Bahama islands and Cuba, right into the gulph of Mexico,

as

as well as the trade winds, which blow from the same quarter, greatly embarrass ships coming from the westward to the port of the Havannah, and expose them very much to the designs of an enemy. When vessels, in their way to Europe, double the capes of Florida, they are under a necessity of keeping near to the shore, in order to take the benefit of the eddies and land breezes. When they have got round the capes, and fall in the stream of the gulph of Florida, they are

D 2 carried

carried forcibly to the northwards by the strength of that noted current. A few ships of force may easily take every loaded vessel on its way through this confined strait, which is about 50 miles wide, and somewhat more than 200 miles long ; and affords to ships passing through it, but little choice in the line of their navigation.

It is easy to discern the utility of a fortified harbour near the capes ; it would contribute not a little, to secure the command of the gulph

gulph of Mexico, as well as Florida ; the importance whereof, I need not enlarge upon.

I have insensibly run to a much greater length in this introduction than I intended. In estimating the value of East-Florida, I have, unavoidably, counted upon what it will be when settled, not upon what it is.

I foresee its climate and produce, as well as its situation, which, with respect to the Spanish dominions, is of great moment, will one day render it a very im-

important colony to Great-Britain ; yet, the town of St. Augustine excepted, this country is at present, for want of inhabitants, little better than a desart.

A N
A C C O U N T
O F
EAST-FLORIDA.

S E C T. I.

S I T U A T I O N .

EAST-FLORIDA, the most southern colony upon the continent of British America, lies between the 25th and 31st degree of north latitude.

B O U N D A R I E S .

By the king's proclamation, dated the 7th of October 1763, its boundaries were fixed on the north by the river St. Mary's, on the east by the Atlantic ocean and gulph of Florida, on the west by the river Apalachicola and the gulph of Mexico.

E X T E N T .

EXTENT.

Its length from north to south is 350 miles. Its breadth from the mouth of St. Mary's river, its northern limits, to the river Apalachicola is about 240.

At the mouths of St. Juan's river, 40 miles south of St. Mary's, where the peninsula begins, it is 180 miles broad; and grows narrower from thence to the capes of Florida, where its breadth may be between 30 and 40 miles. It contains upon the nearest calculation about 12 millions of acres, which is nearly as much as Ireland.

The sea coast of East-Florida is a low flat country, intersected by a great number of rivers, very like Holland, or Surinam in America. It continues flat for about 40 miles from the coast, and then grows a little hilly, and in some parts rocky.

Florida differs materially from the rest of America in this, that almost all the continent besides is covered with a thick forest; whereas the trees in Florida are at a distance from one another, and being clear of under wood, this country has more

the

the appearance of an open grove than a forest.

The rains and the heavy dews, which are more frequent here than to the northward, create such a luxuriant vegetation, that the surface of the earth, notwithstanding the heat of the sun, is never without a good verdure.

S E C T. II.

SOIL.

A country so extensive as this cannot but have a variety of soil, the sandy is the most prevalent, especially towards the sea.

There are generally four strata or beds of earth found in East-Florida: the uppermost is a mould of earth, a few inches thick; beneath is a sand half a yard in depth; below that a strong white clay, resembling the marle in England, and may be used as manure to the sandy land, this stratum is commonly four feet thick; the fourth layer is a rock composed of petrified sea shells. The fertility of Florida is much ascribed to these two strata of clay and rock, which contribute to keep the sand

E moist,

moist, and prevent the rains from sinking away from the roots of the plants and trees.

In the interior parts the trees are larger, the grass higher, and the cattle bigger, than toward the sea, especially in that part of the peninsula which lies betwixt the river St. Juan's, and the fort of St. Mark d'Apalachie, which is about 150 miles to the northwest of this river.

To take a view of the eastern shore of Florida, beginning from the north: we meet the river St. Mary's, lying in the 30th degree 47' latitude, it is a mile broad at its mouth, where Amelia island is situated; it has five fathom water upon the bar at low water, is navigable above 60 miles, where it has three fathom water. It is the best harbour from the capes of Virginia to those of Florida; it takes its rise out of the great swamp *, called by the Indians Owaqua-phe no-gaw. The lands upon the banks of this river are the richest in the northern parts of the province; the abundance

* The word swamp is peculiar to America; it there signifies a tract of land that is sound and good, but by lying low is covered with water. All the forest trees (pine excepted) thrive best in the swamps, where the soil is always rich; and when cleared and drained is proper for the growth of rice, hemp, and indigo.

dance of cane-swamps sufficiently shews the fertility thereof. The best trees, that grow in the swamps on this river, are the live oak and cedar, very useful for ship-building; their extraordinary size is a strong mark of the goodness of the soil. A colony of Bermudians is soon expected to settle upon this river, and the Amelia island.

St. Juan's, now called St. John's river, lies 40 miles southward of St. Mary's; the tract of land between them consists of plains covered with pines; these plains are called in America, pine-barrens, or highlands, in contradistinction to the swamps and lowlands.

We find a striking difference betwixt the pine-barrens of Florida, and those to the northwards; the pine-barrens to the northwards, from the poverty of the soil, do not answer the necessary expence of clearing. The closeness of the trees hinders the grass from growing under them, so that large tracts of land are no further useful than to make pitch and tar: whereas in Florida, as the trees stand at a greater distance, and both the rains and dews are more frequent than to the northwards,

the pine-barrens are covered with good grass of a perpetual verdure.

In passing through this part of Florida, we find those plains frequently divided by the swamps above-mentioned, which being full of forest-trees diversify the aspect of the country, as they form so many thick woods.

The swamps are from half a mile to a mile broad, and from two to five miles long; the depth of the water is various, but is such that in travelling they are usually rode through without much difficulty.

From St. John's river southwards to St. Augustine is 45 miles, the country is inuch the same as has been just described, but not quite so good, the swamps being neither so frequent nor so large.

Before we speak of St. Augustine, it will be proper to take some notice of the river St. John's, the principal river of this province in point of utility and beauty, and not inferior to any in America. The source of this river, which is not exactly ascertained, is in all probability near the capes of Florida; it passes through five lakes,

lakes, the lowest of them is called by the Indians the great lake ; it is 20 miles long and 15 broad, has eight feet water ; there are several islands in it, and it is now called lake George ; it is 170 miles from the mouth of the river. In going down from hence the first European habitation is Mr. Spalding's, an Indian trader's store-house : 15 miles lower is Mr. Rolle's settlement ; the whole distance from the lake to Mr. Rolle's is 45 miles, and the country between the best discovered yet upon the river. The tropical fruits and plants are found in great abundance, and afford the strongest evidence that both the soil and climate are fit for sugar, cotton, indigo, and other West-India productions. Mr. Rolle's plantation is well situated on the eastern banks, and is the most considerable upon this river, which is here very narrow ; 25 miles from Mr. Rolle's, downward, is Piccolata, a small fort with a garrison, the river is here three miles broad.

The bar at low water is nine feet deep, its channel up to lake George is much deeper ; the breadth is very unequal, from

a quarter of a mile to three miles. The tide rises at the bar from five to eight feet, and two feet at Mr. Rolle's, though 125 miles from the sea. There are neither shallows nor any rapidity in the river; the current, owing to the flatness of the country, is very gentle, and vessels may go up the river almost as easy as down, for 200 miles; there is perhaps no river in the world more commodious for navigation.

St. Mark's river takes its rise near the mouth of St. John's river, runs from north to south parallel with the sea, till it empties itself into the harbour of St. Augustine: from the flatness of the country, there are many salt marshes on both sides of the river, almost up to its source; these marshes may be easily defended from the tides, and will make very rich lands, either for rice, indigo, or hemp.

We come now to the harbour of St. Augustine, which would be one of the best in America, were it not for its bar, which will not admit vessels of great burden,

den, as it has but eight feet water *. The bar is surrounded by breakers, that have a formidable appearance when you enter it, but is not so dangerous as it appears, on account of the bar being very short : since the government has appointed a good pilot, no vessels have been lost upon it. There is a road on the north side of the bar, with good anchorage, for such ships as draw too much water to go into the harbour.

A neck of the main land to the north, and a point of Anastasia island to the south, form the entrance of the port. Opposite to the entrance lies Fort St. Mark's, so called from the river it lies upon ; this fort is a regular quadrangle, with four bastions, a ditch fifty feet wide, with a covert-way, places of arms, and a glacis : the entrance of the gate is defended by a raveline ; it is case-mated all round, and bomb-proof : the works are entirely of hewn stone, and being finished according to the modern taste of military architecture, it makes a

very

* It is necessary to observe, that the depth of the bars of the harbours on the eastern shore of East-Florida, cannot be exactly ascertained, as the tides there are chiefly regulated by the winds ; a strong westerly wind will make but six feet, and an easterly wind 12 feet water upon the bar of St. Augustine, at low water.

very handsome appearance, and may be justly deemed the prettiest fort in the king's dominions.

The town of St. Augustine is situated near the glacis of the fort, on the west side of the harbour; it is an oblong square, the streets are regularly laid out, and intersect each other at right angles, they are built narrow on purpose to afford shade. The town is above half a mile in length, regularly fortified with bastions, half-bastions, and a ditch; besides these works it has another sort of fortification, very singular, but well adapted against the enemy the Spaniards had most to fear: it consists of several rows of palmetto trees, planted very close along the ditch, up to the parapet; their pointed leaves are so many chevaux de frieze, that make it entirely impenetrable; the two southern bastions are built of stone. In the middle of the town is a spacious square called the parade, open towards the harbour: at the bottom of this square is the governor's house, the apartments of which are spacious and suited to the climate, with high windows, a balcony in front, and galleries on both sides;

to

to the back part of the house is joined a tower, called in America a look-out, from which there is an extensive prospect towards the sea, as well as inland. There are two churches within the walls of the town, the parish church a plain building, and another belonging to the convent of Franciscan friars, which is converted into barracks for the garrison. The houses are built of free-stone, commonly two stories high, two rooms upon a floor, with large windows and balconies : before the entry of most of the houses runs a portico of stone arches ; the roofs are commonly flat. The Spaniards consulted conveniency more than taste in their buildings ; the number of houses in the Spaniards time, in the town, and within the lines, was above 900 ; many of them, especially in the suburbs, being built of wood or palmetto leaves, are now gone to decay. The inhabitants of all colours, white, negroes, mulattos, Indians, &c. at the evacuation of St. Augustine, amounted to 5700, the garrison included, consisting of 2500 men. Half a mile from the town, to the west, is a line with a broad ditch and bastions, running from St. Sebastian's creek to St. Mark's river : a mile

further is another fortified line, with some redoubts, forming a second communication between a stoccata fort upon St. Sebastian's river, and fort Mosa upon the river St. Mark's.

Within the first line, near the town, was a small settlement of Germans, who had a church of their own. Upon St. Mark's river, within the same line, was also an Indian town, with a church built of free-stone, the steeple is of good workmanship and taste, though built by the Indians: the lands belonging to this township, the governor has given as glebe-lands to the parish church.

The land about Augustine, in all appearance the worst in the province, is yet far from being unfruitful; it produces two crops of Indian corn a year; the garden vegetables are in great perfection; the orange and lemon trees grow here, without cultivation, to a larger size, and produce better fruit than in Spain or Portugal.

Opposite to the town of St. Augustine, lies the island of Anastasia; this island is about 25 miles in length, and divided from the

the main land by a narrow channel, called Matanza river, though in reality, an arm of the sea : the soil is but indifferent ; at present it is used for pasturage ; but having some creeks and swamps in several parts, may in time be cultivated to advantage.

At the north end of this island is a watch-tower, or look-out, built of white stone, which serves also as a land-mark for vessels at sea. At the approach of any vessels, signals are made from this tower to the fort ; a few soldiers do duty there on that account. A quarry of whitish stone is opposite to Augustine, of which the fort and houses are built : stone quarries are very rare in the southern parts of America, which makes this of Anastasia the more valuable ; the stone is manifestly a concretion of small shells petrified ; it is soft under ground, but becomes very hard and durable by being exposed to the air.

Going southwards from Augustine, at the distance of a mile and a half, we come to St. Sebastian's creek ; this stream takes its rise five miles north of Augustine, and after making a sweep to the west, empties itself into the sea at this place : near the

mouths of this creek are extensive salt-water marshes, overflowed at high tides, which may be easily taken in; higher inland are fine swamps.

We come next to Wood-cutters creek, which rises 15 miles north of Augustine, and after describing a semicircle to the west, much like Sebastian's creek, but with a larger sweep, empties itself into the sea, six miles below Augustine; the lands upon this creek consist of very good swamps and highlands.

At the Matanzas, 15 miles south of Wood-cutters creek, is a small fort and harbour, fit for coasting vessels. The harbour is opposite the south point of Anastasia island, where there is a second watch-tower. The soil between Wood-cutters creek and the Matanzas is tolerably good, on account of several creeks and swamps.

From the Matanzas we come to Halifax river, which, like St. Mark's above mentioned, runs parallel to the sea, and is separated from it only by a sandy beach, in some parts a mile, in others two miles broad. This beach or bank seems to be formed by the sands; which, either by

hurri-

hurricanes, or in a course of ages, have been washed up by the sea. The source of this river, though certainly not very far from St. John's river, is not as yet well ascertained: before it reaches Musquito inlet, Tomoko river falls into it; this river runs from west to east; from this river to St. John's is only four miles land-carriage.

From the Matanzas to Musquito inlet is 40 miles: at this place, Hillsborough river, coming from the south, and Halifax river from the north, meet, and are both discharged here into the sea: the bar of this harbour has eight feet at low water.

I do not know any country besides East-Florida, where rivers have been observed to run parallel to the sea, where two streams, as those last mentioned, meet each other from direct opposite quarters; and what is still more remarkable, where two rivers, as the Halifax, and St. John's, at so small a distance, flow different ways, the stream of which run parallel to each other, one to the south, the other to the north.

About Musquito inlet the country is low, and chiefly salt-marsh; what high-
land

land there is, is covered with cabbage-trees, papaw-tree, and other tropic plants, which shews that West-India commodities may be raised here. The western banks of Hallifax and Hillsborough rivers contain a great deal of excellent land; the many orange groves, (which denote former Spanish settlements) and the frequent remains of Indian towns, shews that they have been once well inhabited. We are as yet unacquainted with the sources of most of the rivers in East-Florida, and particularly that of Hillsborough river; it is generally believed to have a communication with an Indian inlet, called by the Spaniards Rio Days, 60 miles to the south, where there is such another harbour as Musquito, with eight feet water; it is said to communicate with St. John's river.

Between Indian river, and the capes of Florida, are several rivers and harbours, but as they are not as yet actually surveyed, it would be presumption in me, to impose the reports of the Indians upon the public as certain truth. We may consider the southern parts of the peninsula, and the

the western coast (the bay of Tampa excepted) as terra incognita, till the surveyor-general of the southern district of America, has completed the actual survey of the coast and rivers.

S E C T. III.

C L I M A T E.

The climate of East-Florida is an agreeable medium betwixt the scorching heat of the tropics, and the pinching cold of the northern latitudes. All America, to the north of the river Potomak, is greatly incommoded by the severities of the weather for two or three months in the winter : In East-Florida there is indeed a change of the seasons, but it is a moderate one ; in November and December many trees lose their leaves, vegetation goes on slowly, and the winter is perceived. In the northern parts of the province a slight frost happened last year, the first known there in the memory of man : I do not find upon enquiry, that snow has ever been seen there ; the winters are so mild, that the

Spaniards

Spaniards at Augustine had neither chimneys in their houses, nor glass windows. The tenderest plants of the West-Indies, such as the plantain, the allegator pear-tree, the banana, the pine-apple or ananas, the sugar-cane, &c. remain unhurt during the winter, in the gardens of St. Augustine.

The fogs and dark gloomy weather, so common in England, are unknown in this country. At the equinoxes, especially the autumnal, the rains fall very heavy every day, betwixt eleven o'clock in the morning, and four in the afternoon, for some weeks together; when a shower is over, the sky does not continue cloudy, but always clears up, and the sun appears again: the mildness of the seasons, and purity of the air, are probably the cause of the healthiness of this country.

By the best accounts of the first discovery of East-Florida, it appears to have been nearly as full of inhabitants as Peru and Mexico; and these accounts are, in some measure, verified, by the frequent remains we find of Indian towns throughout the peninsula. The natives are described

cribed to have been larger, and of a stronger make than the Mexico Indians.

When the Spaniards quitted Augustine, many of them were of a great age, some above ninety : the Spanish women were observed to be more prolific here than in Old Spain, where they are generally accounted but indifferent breeders.

The inhabitants of the Spanish settlements in America consider East-Florida, with respect to its healthiness, in the same light that we do the south of France ; and they looked upon Augustine as the Montpelier of America : the Spaniards, from the Havannah and elsewhere, have frequently resorted thither for the benefit of their health.

Since it came into the hands of Great-Britain, many gentlemen have experienced the happy effects of its climate : Mr. Dunnet, the secretary of the province, and Mr. Wilson, a merchant there, both in a deep consumption, have ascribed the recovery of their health to the climate.

It is an indisputable fact, which can be proved by the monthly returns of the ninth regiment, in garrison in East-Florida,

G da,

da, that it did not lose one single man by natural death in the space of 20 months; and as this regiment does duty in the several forts, at different distances from Augustine, St. Mark's d' Apalachie at 200 miles, Piccolata 30, Matanzas 20, it proves in the most satisfactory manner, that the climate is healthy in the different parts of the province.

The peninsula of Florida is not broad, and as it lies betwixt two seas, the air is cooler, and oftener refreshed with rains, than on the continent: the entire absence of the sun for eleven hours makes the dews heavy, and gives the earth time to cool; so that the nights in summer are less sultry here than in the northern latitude, where the sun shines upon the earth for seventeen or eighteen hours out of the twenty-four. The heat, which in South-Carolina, and in the southern part of Europe, is sometimes intolerable for want of wind, is here mitigated by a never-failing sea-breeze in the day-time, and a land-wind at night. It is only in and near the tropicks that the sea and land-breezes are at all uniform or to be depended upon.

The

The white people work in the fields in the heat of the day without prejudice to their health ; gentlemen frequently ride out for pleasure in the middle of the day ; and governor Grant is regularly on horseback every day from eleven to three o'clock in the afternoon.

S E C T. IV.

NATURAL PRODUCTIONS.

Having already taken notice of the soil and climate, upon which all vegetation depends, I shall now proceed to the vegetable productions of East-Florida.

In no one part of the British dominions is there found so great a variety of trees, plants and shrubs, as in East-Florida ; which, I suppose, is entirely owing to the temperature of the climate, in which the productions of the northern and southern latitudes seem to flourish together. Without attempting to enumerate all the forest-trees, I shall only take notice of such as are most useful.

The white pine grows to a considerable size, and is fit for masts, planks, and other timber for house-building.

The red pine is a heavy wood, full of rezin, and most fit for pitch and tar; its bark is of great use for tanning.

The spruce fir here is quite a different tree from that to the northward, but answers the same end for making the spruce beer. These different sorts of fir demand a sandy soil, that has a clay, or other strong earth beneath it.

The white cedar: of this tree are made boards, shingles, clapboards, and staves for dry casks.

The red cedar is used for posts and boards, the trunk is seldom above 14 feet high, and the limbs are usually crooked, and very proper for ship-building.

The cypress tree grows to a greater size here than to the northward; and being larger than any other tree, is used for making canoes.

The live oak (so called from being an evergreen) is tougher, and of a better grain than the English oak, and is highly esteemed for ship-building.

The

The chesnut oak, very little known in other parts of America, is very common in Florida. Its leaf is like that of a horse-chesnut, the acorn it bears is two inches long, and in taste like a chesnut: it affords excellent mast for hogs, and is an exceeding good timber.

Mahagony grows only in the southern and interior parts of the peninsula; it is in size and quality inferior to the Jamaica, but good enough to become an article of trade: the wood-cutters from Providence, one of the Bahama islands, come to East-Florida to cut mahagony, and carry it off clandestinely.

Red bays: this tree seems a bastard mahagony, and is not yet known in Europe; it may come into repute in time, when the best of mahagony is become still more scarce.

The walnut, and hiccory (which is a species of walnut) are so common, that they, with the chesnut-tree, though beautiful woods, are ordinarily used for fire-wood: they afford good mast for hogs.

Black cherry-tree, is a beautiful wood, the tree bigger than in Europe, the fruit small and of little use.

Maple : its wood is of a fine variegated grain, fit for cabinet-work. In the spring they tap it, in order to make sugar of its juice.

The ash, locust, and dog-wood-trees are here in abundance, and fit for the mill, or wheelwrights work, and other ordinary purposes.

The mulberry-tree, both the red and white, are natives of the country, the forests are full of them ; they grow here to a larger size than in any other country.

The leaf of this tree being the food of the silk-worm, and the climate perfectly adapted to that tender insect, I shall, in a proper place, make some observations upon the cultivation of silk.

The fustic and brasiletto, useful as dying woods, are likewise found in East-Florida.

Sassafras of Florida was always reckoned the best in America.

Balsam-tree, of the size and with leaves like the sycamore tree in England, yields the true balsam of Tolu.

The

The magnolia, tulip-laurel, tupelow-tree, are all beautiful, and very ornamental in gardens and pleasure-grounds.

FRUIT-TREES.

It is observable in America, that though no country has a greater variety of valuable forest-trees, yet there are but few fruit-trees, natives of the continent, worth mentioning.

All the fruit-trees (an indifferent sort of plumb, and a small black cherry excepted) have been imported from Europe, and thrive exceeding well. In Florida, a stranger cannot help being struck with the luxuriancy of the orange-tree; it is larger in size, and produces greater abundance and better flavoured fruit than in Spain or Portugal: this tree is so well adapted to the climate, that it has spread itself every-where, and is so far from a rarity, that the inhabitants, not apprehensive of scarcity, frequently cut down the tree in order to gather the fruit.

The lemons, limes, citrons, pomegranates, figs, apricots, peach, &c. grow here in high perfection.

SHRUBS

SHRUBS and PLANT'S.

The myrtle-wax shrub is, without doubt, the most useful of the spontaneous growth of America ; it is found in all sorts of soil, and in such plenty in East-Florida, that were there hands enough to gather the berries, they could supply all England with wax : the process of making it is very simple ; they bruise the berries, boil them in water, and skim the wax off, which is naturally of a bright green colour, but may be bleached like bees-wax, and, on account of its hardness, is well adapted for candles in hot countries.

Of the opuntia, or prickly pear, are different species in East-Florida ; on one sort, with a smooth leaf, is the cochineal insect, found in incredible plenty : of the fruit of the other species, is made a vegetable cochineal, which may be used in ordinary purposes instead of the true cochineal.

The vines, the senna shrub, sarsaparilla, China-root, wild indigo, water and musk-melons, are indigenous plants of East-Florida.

I cannot omit mentioning a herb of the growth of East-Florida, of which, as yet, very little notice has been taken, notwithstanding the great advantage that may be derived from it: this herb resembles entirely our samphire in England, and is called barilla or kaly; it is the same of which in Spain the pearl-ashes are made, in the manner as the kelp in Scotland; the sea-coast, marshes, and low-lands, overflowed at high tides, are covered with it here in Florida.

ANIMALS.

There is no animal of this country better worth mentioning than the deer, which is found in great plenty; the deer-skins are, at present, the only article of exportation of East-Florida.

The buffalo is found in the savannahs, or natural meadows, in the interior parts of East-Florida: the peculiarity of the American buffalo is, that instead of hair, it is covered with a fine frizzled wool.

The bear in America is considered not as a fierce, carnivorous, but as an useful

H animal;

animal; it feeds in Florida upon grapes, chesnuts, acorns, &c. It is reckoned very good food, especially the bear hams, &c.

The racoon is a species of the bear, but smaller; he is of the size and colour of a badger, and is esteemed very delicate eating.

Hares are very plenty, but not bigger than an English rabbit.

I have mentioned but a few of the most useful of wild animals: (if we except the moose-deer and beaver) East-Florida has all the wild animals common to America; though I must acknowledge, that the skins of those of the fur kind are of little value, the climate being too hot for them.

As to the domestic animals, they are, in general, the same that we have in Europe; the horned cattle as big as in England, especially in the inland parts.

The horses are of the Spanish breed, of great spirit, but little strength; they are seldom above 14 hands high: the Indians here, by mixing the Spanish breed with the Carolina, have excellent horses, both for service and beauty.

From

From the great plenty of fine mast, the hogs grow here to an uncommon size; and their flesh is fatter and better than in any other country.

Sheep, goats, and caprinos, thrive here very well, but must be secured at night against the wolves and foxes, till the country is better settled.

BIRDS.

Florida, on account of its climate, has a great variety of birds; immense numbers migrate thither in winter, to avoid the cold of the northern latitudes. - In the woods are plenty of wild turkeys, which are better tasted, as well as larger, than our tame ones in England.

The pheasant is in size like the European, its plumage like that of our partridge. The American partridge is not much bigger than a quail, and seems to be of that species.

The wild pigeons, for three months in the Year, are in such plenty here, that an account of them would seem incredible.

All the different sorts of water-fowls belonging to America, (the swan excepted) are found here in the greatest abundance.

FISH.

The rivers of the southern provinces of North-America abound greatly with fish, but Florida rather more than any other: those mostly made use of, are the bass, mullet, different sorts of rays, and flat-fish, cat-fish, sea-trout, and black-fish.

Of shell-fish: several sorts of crabs, prawns, and shrimps, of an extraordinary size.

The oysters are so plentiful here, that nothing is more common, than at low water, to see whole rocks of them.

There are three sorts of sea-turtle common in East-Florida, the logger-head, hawk's-bill, and green-turtle. There are likewise two sorts of land-turtle, one of them is amphibious, and the other, not so, is called a terrapin.

INSECTS.

INSECTS.

If one considers the extent of East-Florida, and the small number of inhabitants it has had these sixty years, since the native Indians were exterminated by the creeks, one would be apt to think it must of course be overrun with venomous insects and reptiles : several writers who mention Florida, have taken it for granted to be so ; amongst others, the gentleman who lately wrote major Rogers's History of North-America, tells us, East-Florida would be a fine country, were it not for the innumerable venomous insects with which it is infested : the fact is quite otherwise ; if we except the alligator, East-Florida has fewer insects than any other province in America : during my stay there, I saw but two black snakes ; Mr. Rolle, who for eighteen months lived constantly in the woods, has seen but one rattle-snake. If East-Florida is so happy as to have so few venomous creatures, it is not owing to a supernatural or miraculous cause, like the blessings of St. Patrick upon Ireland, but to a very plain and natural one, which is,

that the hunting-parties of the Creek Indians, who are dispersed through the whole province, continually set the grass on fire, for the conveniency of hunting ; by which means, not only the insects but their eggs also are destroyed.

Allegators are here in great number, they never attack men either in the water or upon land ; all the mischief they do, is carrying off young pigs from the plantations near the rivers.

There is an insect in East-Florida, not known in other parts of America, which is a large yellow spider ; the hind part of his body is bigger than a pigeon's egg, and the rest in proportion ; its web is a true yellow silk, so strong as to catch small birds, upon which it feeds : the bite of this spider is attended with a swelling of the part, and great pain, but no danger of life.

A great variety of lizards are found here, some of them very beautiful, changing their colour like the cameleon ; they are quite a harmless insect.

S E C T. V.
O F C U L T I V A T I O N.

R I C E.

From the climate of Florida, and the great variety of tropical, as well as northern productions, that are natives of this country, there is reason to expect, that cotton, rice, and indigo, not to mention sugar, will grow here as well as in any part of the globe. The planters from Carolina, that have visited Florida, since it came into our possession, are of opinion, that it is much fitter for the production of rice, even than South-Carolina.

The great peculiarity, and indeed the principal difficulty, attending the cultivation of rice, in a proper climate, arises from the necessity of laying the ground where it is sown under water at two stated periods. It is manifest, that not many situations can have this command of water; but from the number of rivers in Florida, and the nature of the country, which approaches to a level without being so, it is
easy

easy to discern, that the streams of water can be guided more at pleasure, than if the inequalities of the surface were greater.

Florida is in the same latitude with Bengal and China, where rice grows in greater plenty than any where else in the world ; and when the variety of swamps, rivulets, and water-side lands are considered, we may give credit to what a very knowing and eminent planter of Carolina says, who has been up the river St. John's as high as lake George, that the country from that lake to Mr. Rolle's, 45 miles in length, will, in his opinion, yield as much rice as is produced in all South-Carolina.

Where the soil and climate is proper for rice, there is no grain in the world yields so much profit to a planter.

COTTON.

Since every colony in America seems to have, as it were, a staple commodity peculiar to itself, as Canada the fur ; Massachussets-bay, fish ; Connecticut, lumber ; New-York and Pensylvania, wheat ; Virginia and Maryland, tobacco ; North-Carolina, pitch and tar ; South-Carolina, rice and indigo ;

indigo; Georgia, rice and silk. I am much disposed to prognosticate, that cotton will, in time, be a staple commodity in Florida.

The cotton shrub is known to thrive best in a light sandy soil, and in a climate that has frequent rains: the pine-barrens, and worst parts of Florida, as well as its climate, are therefore fit for this shrub.

It is needless to say any thing of the utility and importance of cotton as an article of trade; Bengal, and the Coromandel coast, in great measure, owe their riches to it; the calicoes, chints, muslins, &c. &c. annually imported by the East-India company, and sold at such immense profit, are all made of cotton.

The quantity imported from the West-Indies, notwithstanding the great increase lately made in the produce of it at Tortola, one of the Virgin-islands belonging to Great-Britain, bears but a small proportion to the whole consumption. A great demand has raised the price of the Turkey cotton from five-pence to ten-pence a pound, and of the West-India, from nine-pence to two shillings.

The Manchester manufactures are greatly cramped by the scarcity of this commodity, and would be considerably extended should cotton become plentiful in England.

A small bounty upon the growth of it in Florida, might be attended with good effect, and be a wise encouragement of an infant colony.

Mr. Rolle has planted the cotton-tree in Florida, where he has found it thrive so well, as plainly proves the soil and climate is adapted to it.

S I L K.

With respect to the cultivation of silk in Florida, there is not the least doubt of the climate being better adapted to the silk-worm than any country in Europe, or probably, in America : silk abounds much more in India, Persia, and China, which are in the latitude of Florida, than in Italy.

A considerable increase has of late been made in the growth of silk in Carolina and Georgia ; at Purisburgh, silk is become the staple commodity of the place : this

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town was settled about 40 years ago, by some natives of Switzerland ; it lies 30 miles east of Savannah.

In Carolina and Georgia the worms are often injured by accidental frosts, and cold mornings, in the spring, especially if it is a late one ; they are sometimes actually destroyed, and at other times are benumbed and made sickly for want of warmth : this inconvenience is also frequently experienced in Italy : it is almost unnecessary to remark, that the southern situation of Florida has placed it out of the reach of this disaster.

In Georgia there is often a great deal of thunder and lightning in the spring-season, which is apt to affect and injure the silk-worm ; whereas in Florida, where frequent showers refresh the air, and the sea-breezes keep it in constant agitation, the thunder is neither so common or so violent : experience will probably shew, that this country is as much adapted to the silk-worm as to the mulberry-tree, on which it feeds. It has been before observed, that this tree grows in its utmost luxuriance in all parts of Florida.

SUGAR.

As there is no production of the West-Indies affords a planter so much profit as sugar, there is no doubt but sugar will soon be planted in Florida. The sugar-cane grew at Augustine, and in the trustees garden in Savannah in Georgia, in as great perfection as in the West-Indies. We are not however yet, for want of experiments, perfectly informed with what degree of success sugar can be raised in Florida. It is certain the sugar-cane is a tender plant, that requires both a good and a moist soil, as well as a hot climate to bring it to perfection.

The sugar-cane is not a native of the West-Indies, as is commonly taken for granted; nor will it grow there without art and cultivation.

The common use of sugar in Europe was introduced by the Portuguese, who transplanted it from the East-Indies into the Madeira islands; the sugar-cane flourished there, and in the Canaries, which are in the latitude of Florida, so well, that
all

all Europe was supplied from thence with sugar.

The loaf-sugar at this day, in Germany, is called Canary-sugar. Sugar is plentiful and common in Egypt, in parts further from the tropic than Florida. Pliny, the elder, makes it the produce of Arabia and India.

In the neighbourhood of Malaga, sugar used to be raised in great abundance, and it is grown in some parts of Spain at this day. The south of Spain is ten degrees north of the capes of Florida. The plantane-tree and allegator pear, the tenderest of the tropical plants, are in full perfection at Augustine.

As both the soil and climate of East-Florida seem fit for sugar, one cannot reasonably doubt, but the cultivation of it will be attended with success; and if in some respects Florida be found inferior to the West-Indies, which I do not expect, it has in other respects the advantage of them.

The stock of a sugar planter is not only procured, but supported at a vast expence; the excessive price of labour in the West-
Indies,

Indies, arising from the unhealthiness of the climate, and the dearness of the necessaries of life, virtually amounts to a tax upon the sugar planter ; not only all kind of cloathing, but provisions too, must be imported from Europe, and the northern plantations.

The materials for building, all the lumber required to erect and repair the sugar works, must be fetched from the continent : in Florida they are found upon the spot. In the islands, the wages of a carpenter, mason, &c. run up as high as ten shillings a day ; the natural plenty in Florida will make labour there comparatively cheap.

The overseer, and other white servants, will, beyond all question, be hired much cheaper in a plentiful and good climate, than in a scarce and sickly one.

Not only overseers and servants will be had at a reasonable price, but horses, cows, and oxen, may be purchased at less than one sixth of the price they bear in the West-Indies. Mules and horses are there sold from 20 l. to 30 l. a-piece : a serviceable horse in Florida may be had for 4 l.

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The price of an ox is no more than 3 l. in Florida. It is not only the prime cost of the stock that differs so much in the two countries, but the expence of maintaining it bears the same comparative difference; grass and fodder for the cattle, and corn and flesh-meat for the servants, are very scarce in the islands, and very plentiful in Florida.

When the sugar is made, it is often necessary, in the West-Indies, to carry it at a great expence by land, a considerable distance to the shipping-places: this expence will be saved in Florida, where a planter will be sure to make his plantation on the side of a navigable river.

In Florida the lands are not sold, as in the ceded islands, but given upon conditions, which interest leads the grantee to perform; and the reservation made to the crown is only a halfpenny an acre, after the end of three, five, or ten years, which is regulated by the extent of the grants.

It often happens in the West-Indies, as it did last year, that when the ground is prepared, and the cane planted, the rains, or seasons as they are called, fail; as often as

as this is the case, the crop is ruined by drought, a misfortune which is not to be apprehended in Florida.

INDIGO.

Both the soil and climate of East-Florida seem to suit this plant; the Spaniards planted some of the guatimala indigo in their gardens at Augustine, where I have seen, in a poor, sandy soil, indigo plants of a larger size, and in a more luxuriant state, than ever I saw in South-Carolina in the richest and best cultivated lands: I was informed the Spaniards cut it four times a year.

INDIAN CORN.

This grain is the common food in America; the Spaniards being confined within the lines of Augustine, used to raise two crops a year upon the same ground; which I mention rather as a mark of the fertility of the soil, than of the good husbandry of the Spaniards: it grows here in almost every soil.

HEMP.

H E M P.

The large bounties granted by parliament, and the considerable premiums by the society of arts and sciences, will induce some of the new settlers to cultivate hemp; it requires a fresh, strong, moist soil: the swamps, after being cleared and drained for rice, are fittest to be sown with hemp for the first and second year.

V I N E S:

It is not at all doubtful whether the vine will flourish in Florida, because it grows there, and in almost all parts of America, south of Delaware, in great plenty. The wild grapes of America are of little worth, they usually run up the trees of the forests, where they are too much shaded, and for want of cultivation, of no value.

The dearness of labour, and the cheapness of foreign wines in America, have both contributed to prevent the planting of vineyards more frequently. The French refugees planted some in South-Carolina,

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and I have drank a red wine of the growth of that province little inferior to burgundy.

When it is observed that the richest wines are produced in the islands of Madeira and the Canaries, in the island of Cyprus, and in other parts of the Levant, lying nearly in the latitude of East-Florida; it will, probably, not be owing to any defect either in soil or climate, but to the dearness of labour, or negligence of the inhabitants, if wine is not produced hereafter in some plenty upon this continent.

Currants, raisins, figs, and olives, will most probably thrive here whenever they are planted.

Having finished what I had to say of the country of East-Florida, I must, before I conclude, add one word more upon the subject of procuring inhabitants for it.

The government has acted agreeably to the wise and masculine spirit of its policy, in laying the new foundation of several extensive colonies. Civil as well as military establishments have been provided these three years for the two Florida's, at an expence of near 100,000 l. a year; but still

still the inhabitants of both of them put together, (soldiers and savages excepted) would make but a thin congregation in a small parish-church.

If the government resolves not to stir one step further, it has gone already a great deal too far; Florida, without inhabitants, is so much worse than nothing, that Great-Britain loses near 100,000l. a year by it.

Governments, garrisons, establishments civil and military, without inhabitants, or any measures taken to procure them, seems something strange. It is very unusual to take all the measures requisite to a particular end but one, and to neglect a single one, which being omitted, renders all the rest abortive.

If a farmer should purchase an estate, hire servants, prepare the ground for sowing, have the seed-corn ready, and still save the expence of putting it in the ground, his neighbours would laugh heartily at him. Rice, cotton, and indigo, will grow in East-Florida, whenever they are put in the ground, but they will not grow without. We must not expect because a country is a good one, that it therefore

will work miracles, and without so much as sowing the teeth of Cadmus's serpent *, of itself produce the human species.

If East-Florida settles itself, which it is left to do, it will be the first colony on the continent that ever did so: the fact, as far as experience goes, overturns the theory.

Notwithstanding every wise and generous measure is taken by governor Grant for the good of East-Florida, yet his proclamation to invite new settlers, dated the 1st of October, 1764, has not been hitherto, attended with any visible effect. When we consider the amount of the present establishments for that country, it seems to be bad oeconomy to stay for years, in order to see whether Florida will settle itself or not. None of the American provinces are so well peopled, as to spare inhabitants; and were any of the inhabitants to the northward disposed to go to Florida, it is, with respect to the migration of families, quite inaccessible by land, for want of roads, and ferrys to pass the several large rivers; and such inhabitants as may be willing to seek a new habitation, can-
not

* Ovid. iv. Metam.

not afford the expence of conveying themselves and families by sea.

Neither is Florida likely to be settled by inhabitants from Europe, unless the goverment will defray the expences, and pay the passage, for men who have neither money nor credit to convey themselves thither. Will any man go from Europe to Florida at his own expence, when he can go to South-Carolina passage free, and have lands given him when he gets there, without any expence; and besides this, be supplied with necessaries and provision for a twelvemonth. South-Carolina, though settled above a century, is still at an expence of 4000l. a year, as a bounty given upon the importation of foreign protestants*: we ought to follow their

* By foreign settlers is to be understood, 1. Germans from the Rhine, Moselle, and other parts, where they cultivate vineyards. 2. Protestants from the southern provinces of France, used to the culture of silk, olives, vines, &c. 3. Inhabitants of the islands of Greece, and the Archipelago; they are a very sober, industrious people, well skilled in the cultivation of cotton, vines, raisins, currants, olives, almonds, and silk-worms: the soil and climate of East-Florida is adapted to every one of these articles.

Without doubt, many of my readers, especially those unacquainted with America, will be apt to ask, why should

their example, and not content ourselves with the name only of governments and colonies.

Should the parliament of Great-Britain give only the same bounty that Carolina gives, East-Florida would stand a chance at least, of becoming inhabited ; the healthiness and fertility of this country will be known by degrees ; and I do not doubt, but foreigners may be induced to go thither upon the same terms they are tempted to go to other colonies. I believe several persons of note intend to apply for grants of land in East-Florida, with a view of raising sugar, or other articles there, by

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Should we make choice of foreigners, and not of our own subjects ? to which I would answer, that these foreigners, when settled in an English colony, are no longer foreigners, but subjects to Great-Britain. It would be very impolitic to encourage, or so much as to countenance the emigration of industrious husbandmen, and useful manufacturers ; and those which are either chargeable, or useless to the public here in England, will be much more so in a new colony ; besides, experience convinces us, that foreigners are the fittest people to settle America. The provinces of Pensylvania, New-York, and New-Jerseys, chiefly inhabited by Germans and Dutch, are the best peopled, and the most wealthy upon the continent, notwithstanding the little value their produce is of, in comparison to the southern colonies : and it is undoubtedly true, that the flourishing state America is in, is chiefly owing to the continual importation of foreign settlers.

the help of negroes : and it is also true, that the condition of each grant, requires the having one white inhabitant to 100 acres of land ; but it is surely impolitic, to make the actual settling of new colonies depend upon a slight and precarious foundation, without assisting the laudable designs of those who apply for grants, and seconding their views, by promoting the importation of foreign protestants, to supply them with cheap servants, and useful labourers.

At a time when public oeconomy is absolutely necessary, I do not wish to see such sums expended to settle Florida, as has been done with respect to Nova-Scotia ; but since a method of encouraging foreigners to settle in America has been sometime practised, and experience has shewn it to be both frugal and efficacious, I flatter myself the administration will adopt the system of Carolina, or some other equally expedient.

The amount of the civil establishment in East-Florida, is 5700 l. a year, granted by parliament : If Great-Britain should dispose of an equal sum, to encourage the set-

settling of the colony, and allow only 2500 l. to be paid as a bounty of 4 l. per head to the master of the ship, for every foreign protestant imported to settle in East-Florida; to allow 2500 l. more, to supply the new settlers with provision for nine months, and the remaining 700 l. to be distributed at the discretion of the governor, in provincial premiums, upon the growth of cotton, hemp, silk, and vines.

Should this be done, his majesty's governors may have the pleasure of distributing justice, and his generals affording safety to the king's subjects, that may hereafter be found in that colony.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

IN order that persons unacquainted with the author, may have other testimonies besides his own, relative to matters contained in the foregoing sheets, he has thought proper to insert the following extracts of letters and accounts, which it is in his power to authenticate, if necessary.

Extract of a proclamation, by his excellency James Grant, Esq; governor of East-Florida.

‘ And whereas it may greatly contribute to the speedy settling of this his majesty’s province, to inform all persons of the healthiness, soil, and productions thereof ; I do, in this proclamation further publish, and make known, that the former inhabitants lived to great ages ; his majesty’s troops, since their taking possession of it, have enjoyed an uninterrupted state of good health : fevers, which are so common during the autumn, in other parts of America,

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rica,

rica, are unknown here. The winter is so remarkably temperate, that vegetables of all kinds are raised during that season without any art.

The soil on the coast is in general sandy, but productive with proper cultivation. The lands are rich and fertile in the interior parts of the province, and on the sides of the rivers, which are numerous. Fruits and grains may be raised with little labour: the late inhabitants had often two crops of Indian corn in one year, and the breeder here will be under no necessity of laying up fodder for the winter; for there is at all times sufficient quantity of pasture to maintain his cattle.

The indigo plant remains unhurt for several years, and may be cut four times in a season. Wild indigo is found here in great abundance; which, with proper cultivation, is esteemed in the French islands to be the best.

From the great luxuriancy of all the West-Indian weeds, found in the southern part of this province, it is not to be doubted, but that all the fruits and productions of the West-Indies may be raised here; though

though either from want of industry of the late inhabitants, or from the frequent interruptions they met with from the Indians, no improvements of that kind were ever attempted. Oranges, limes, lemons, and other fruits, grow spontaneously over the country.

This province abounds with mahagony, and all kind of lumber, fit for transportation, or ship-building; and the conveyance of the commodities, or productions hereof, will be attended with little expence, as there is water-carriage every where.'

Abstract of a letter from an eminent planter in South-Carolina, to a noble lord in England, dated, Charles-town, August 27, 1765.

' Soon after my arrival at Augustine, I set out for St. Juan's river, and arrived that evening at Piccolata, a small fort upon the banks of St. Juan's; next morning we proceeded up the river as far as Mr. Rolle's town, which may be about 30 miles from Piccolata: the land on both sides of the river is very indifferent, except some spots

here and there; but at Mr. Rolle's the good land begins. After staying one night at Mr. Rolle's, we set out for Lake George, went that day as far as Spalding's store, and next day arrived at Lake George, which is 20 miles long, and 15 broad. From Mr. Rolle's to Lake George, which is near 50 miles, is one continued body of excellent land; I may say the best in the king's dominions. This tract alone is capable of producing yearly more rice than the whole province of South-Carolina has ever yet produced in a year: these lands seem to me more adapted to rice and indigo, than any thing else: it is better land than mine at Winyaw, which is reckoned some of the best in South-Carolina. We intended to cross the lake, but the wind blowing fresh, and we in an open boat, it was not thought safe to venture, and therefore turned back, after staying one night and a day. Our guide, who was a man of credit, informed us, that after you pass over Lake George, there was good land on each side of the river for 50 miles; when you meet with another lake; not quite so large as lake George: when that is crossed, the country,

country, as far as you can see, on both sides of the river, is a fresh water marsh : for 40 miles higher up, these marshes are extraordinary rich lands ; here the river begins to be shallow, but from the mouth to this place, it is the best and safest navigation I ever have seen. At this place, in a still evening, the surf of the sea is heard, and plenty of sea-birds are seen in the river ; which is a sign it cannot be above seven or eight miles from the sea.

In coming down the river, within a few miles from Mr. Rolle's, we pitched upon an island where we landed, and examined it ; it may contain about 14 or 1500 acres ; a ridge of high lands runs across, on which is a continued grove of orange-trees, live-oak, wild cherries, and magnolia ; on each side of this ridge, is as fine a body of rich low lands as any in the world. Near this island is a tract of very good land, separated from it by a creek of about 40 yards wide, and deep enough for any ship. Great plenty of fresh water fish is here in the river, and abundance of ducks, and wild turkies upon the island. I shall return to East-Florida next November, and carry negroes with me ;

me; as the governor will not grant us our land, till the negroes are arrived in the province.

St. Augustine, May 1, 1765.

SIR,

In consequence of your desire, and your purpose to bring to East-Florida foreign protestants, in case I could assure you the land to be good, and fit for cultivation; in answer to which, I acquaint you, that, by order of the lords of trade, and virtue of my appointment, as surveyor-general of the southern district of North-America, I have made, since January, an exact survey of the land, and sea-coast, from St. Augustine towards the cape of Florida, as far as latitude 26. 40. the special charts of which, as well as a general map, with my journal, I have transmitted to the board of trade; and make no doubt will be published for the instruction of such as are of your good disposition. You may inform those, who choose to become inhabitants of East-Florida, at this favourable juncture of its beginning, that the first comers will have great advantages in the

the choice of their land. There is variety of soil in East-Florida; the high lands, some very rich, with a clay foundation; some less, with a sandy bottom, and some quite sandy: the first and second produce oranges sweet and sour, lemons, oak, ash, red bay, spice-tree, papaw-tree, and pine; the third sort of soil produces the cabbage-tree, the arboreous grape-vine, the plumb-tree, and opuntia, on which the cochineal worm is nourished.

The low lands are partly cypress and tupelo swamps, partly fresh water marsh, without any tree, except cedar, on the foot of the high lands; partly salt-water marsh, full of the barilla, and the mangrove-tree. There is an inland navigation mostly thro' the whole province, by which the produce may be conveyed to the capes, or to St. Mary's river to the northward.'

Abstract of a letter from a gentleman in Augustine, to his friend in London.

' SIR,

' According to your desire, I made all possible enquiry about the proper place to take up a tract of land; but have not till lately,

lately, been able to get satisfaction on that head. I am informed, by a gentleman living upon St. John's, that the lands on that river, below Piccolata, are, in general, good; and that there is growing there now, good wheat, Indian corn, indigo, and cotton; that the indigo promises well for a good crop; and indeed there is all reason to believe, that this will exceed either Carolina or Georgia for indigo, as our climate is so much less affected by the frost than theirs. I am farther informed, by one of the principal planters in Carolina, who came here to take up land, that above Piccolata, for 40 miles along the river, is as good swamp, or rice land, as any in Carolina: this gentleman is come to live here, as he finds East-Florida much healthier than South-Carolina, and that it is so, is the opinion of every body: agues and fevers are disorders hardly known here. Some gentlemen are gone to the southwards, to a place called Musquito, to take up land, as there is great expectation of sugar; as in that part they never have any frost, and the soil naturally produces the West-Indian plants. You will find
your

your grant no inconsiderable matter, as it has all the appearance we shall make a figure here in time, if we are properly encouraged from home. It is true, the bar of Augustine is a great bar to our hopes ; it has a dreadful appearance to strangers, though if a vessel draws but eight or nine feet water, it may safely come over.

It is not expensive living here ; all kind of provision is cheaper here than in England ; and house-rent excessive cheap, and good houses they are, though built in the Spanish fashion, which is the properest for this country.

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For

For the gratification and instruction of such of my readers as may be inclined to petition for a grant, or to take up land in East-Florida, according to a proclamation issued by his excellency governor Grant, dated, October 1, 1764. I have annexed both the conditions of the grant, and the terms of the proclamation.

A PROCLAMATION.

EAST-FLORIDA.

- ‘ By his excellency James Grant, Esq; captain-general, governor and commander in chief, in and over the said province, and vice-admiral of the same.
- ‘ WHEREAS the king, by his royal instructions, has commanded me to issue a proclamation, to make known the terms and conditions, on which all persons may obtain grants of lands in the said province; I do, in obedience to his majesty’s instructions, issue this my proclamation, and make known to all persons, that they may, on application to me in council, at St. Augustine, obtain grants of

of lands, in the said province of East-Florida, in the following quantities, and on the following terms and conditions.

That 100 acres of land will be granted to every person, being master or mistress of a family, for him or herself; and 50 acres for every white or black man, woman, or child, of which such person's family shall consist, at the actual time of making the grant: and in case any person applying as aforesaid, shall be desirous to take up a larger quantity of land than the family-right entitles such persons to, upon shewing a probability of cultivation, an additional number of acres, not exceeding 1000, may be obtained, upon paying, to the receiver of the quit-rents, the sum of five shillings sterling, for every 50 acres of such additional grant, on the day of the date of the said grant.

That the quit-rents of the land granted in this province, to be one halfpenny per acre, payable to his majesty, his heirs and successors, yearly, on the feast of St. Michael, which shall happen two years after the date of the grant.

That in all grants of land to be made, regard will be had to the profitable and unprofitable acres; so that each grantee may have a proportionable number of one sort and the other; as likewise, that the breadth of each tract of land be one-third of the length of such tract; and that the length of each tract do not extend along the banks of any river, but in the main land; and thereby the said grantees may have each a convenient share of what accommodation the said river may afford, either for navigation, or otherwise.

That all persons, on fulfilling the terms of the first grant, may have a further grant of the like quantity of lands, on the same terms and conditions aforesaid.

That for every 50 acres of plantable land, each grantee shall be obliged, within three years after the date of the grant, to clear and work three acres, at least, on that part of the tract which they shall think most convenient or advantageous; or else, to drain or clear three acres of swampy, funken ground; or drain three acres of marsh, if any such within his or her grant.

That

That for every 50 acres of land, accounted barren, every grantee shall be obliged to put on his or her land, within three years after the date of the grant, three neat cattle; which number every person shall be obliged to continue on their lands, till three acres for every fifty be fully cleared and improved.

That if any person shall take up a tract of land, wherein there shall be no part fit for present cultivation, without manuring and improving the same, every such grantee shall be obliged, within three years from the date of the grant, to erect on some part of the land, one good dwelling-house, at least 20 feet in length, and 16 in breadth; and also to put on the land, the number of three neat cattle for every 50 acres.

That if any person, who shall take up any stony or rocky grounds, not fit for culture or pasture, shall, within three years after the passing the grant, begin to employ thereon, and continue to work for three years then next ensuing, in digging any stone-quarry, or other mine, one good hand,

hand, for every 100 acres, it shall be accounted a sufficient cultivation.

That every three acres which shall be cleared and worked as aforesaid, and every three acres which shall be drained as aforesaid, shall be accounted a sufficient seating, planting, cultivation and improvement, to keep for ever from forfeiture 50 acres of land in any part contained within the same grant; and the grantee shall be at liberty to withdraw the stock, or forbear working in any quarry or mine, in proportion to such cultivation and improvement as shall be made on the plantable lands, or upon the swampy or sunken grounds, or marshes, which shall be included in the same grant.

That when any person who shall hereafter take up and patent any land, shall have seated, planted, or cultivated and improved the said land, or any part of it, according to the directions and conditions abovementioned, such patentee may make proof of such seating, planting, and cultivation or improvements, in any court of record in the said province, or in the court of the country, district, or precinct, where such

such lands shall be, and have such proofs certified to the register and office, and there entered with the record of the said patent; a copy of which shall be admitted on any trial, to prove the seating and planting such lands.'

At the court of St. James's.

WHereas the lords commissioners for trade and plantations have represented to his majesty, at this board, that application has been made to them, by , praying for a grant of lands in his majesty's province of East-Florida, in order to make a settlement thereupon, his majesty, this day, took the same into consideration; and having received the opinion of the lords commissioners for trade and plantations, and also of a committee of the lords of his majesty's most honourable privy-council thereupon, is hereby pleased, with the advice of his privy-council, to order, that the governor and commander in chief of his majesty's province of East-Florida, for the time being, do cause acres of land to be surveyed, in one contiguous tract, in such part of the said province as the

the said , or his attorney, shall choose, not already granted, or surveyed to others; and upon return of such survey, conformable to his majesty's directions in general instructions, to pass a grant for the same to the said , under the seal of the said province, upon the following terms, conditions and reservations, viz.

That the grantee do settle the lands with protestant white inhabitants, within ten years from the date of the grant, in the proportion of one person for every 100 acres.

That if one third of the land is not settled with white protestant inhabitants in the abovementioned proportion, within three years from the date of the grant, the whole to be forfeited to his majesty, his heirs or successors.

That such part of the whole tract as is not settled with white protestant inhabitants at the expiration of ten years from the date of the grant, to revert to his majesty, his heirs or successors.

That an annual quit-rent of one half-penny, sterling, per acre, be reserved to his majesty, his heirs or successors, payable

able on the feast of St. Michael, in every year, to commence, and become payable, upon one half of the said land, on the said feast of St. Michael, which shall first happen after the expiration of five years, from the date of the grant; and to be payable on every ensuing feast of St. Michael, or within fourteen days after; and the whole quantity to be subject in like manner to the like quit-rent, at the expiration of ten years.

That there be a reservation in the said grant to his majesty, his heirs and successors, of all those parts of the land, which the surveyor shall, upon the return of the survey, report to be proper for erecting fortifications, public wharfs, naval yards, or for other military purposes.

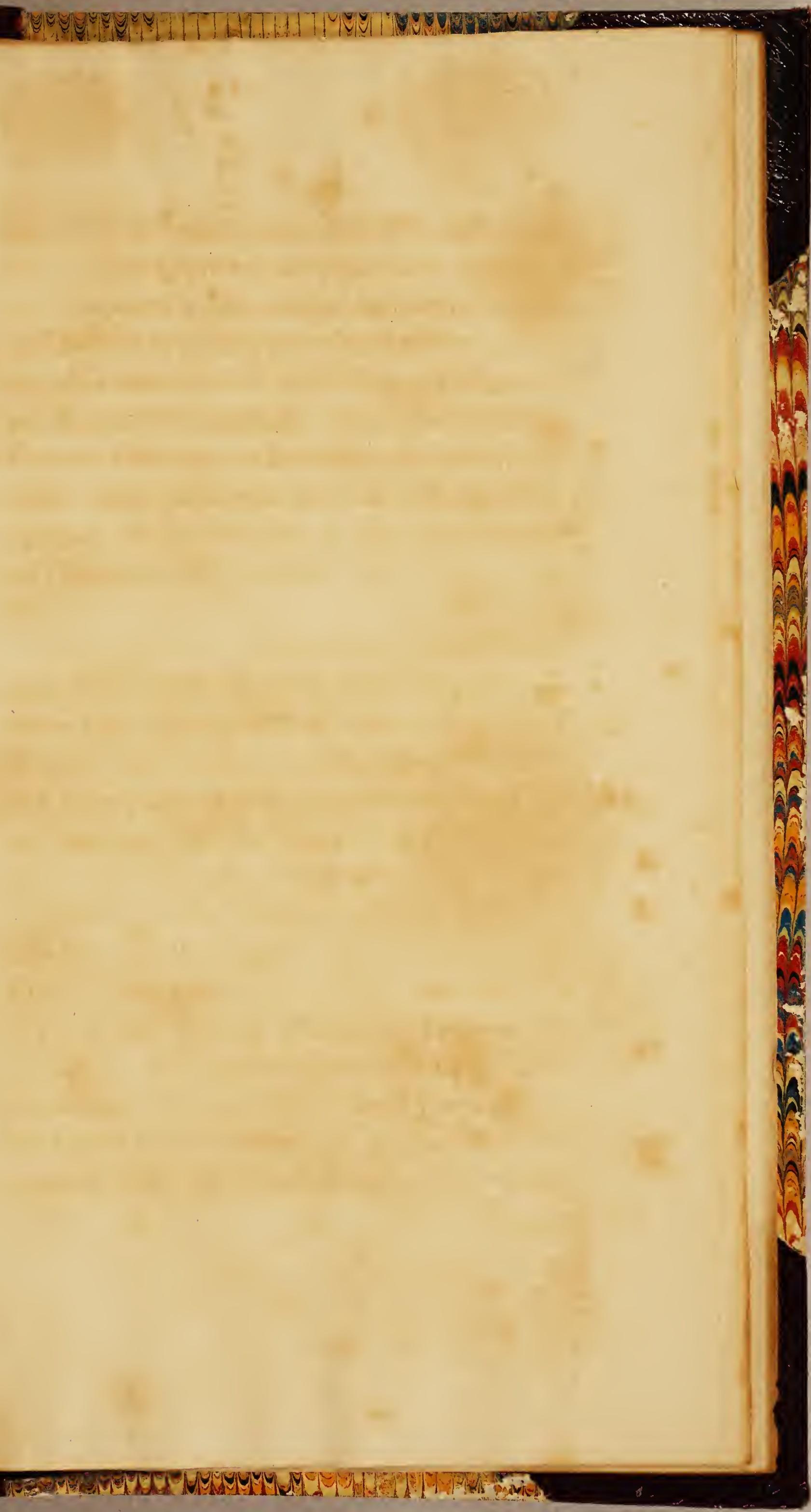
That there be a reservation to his majesty, his heirs and successors, of all mines of gold, silver, copper, lead, and coals.

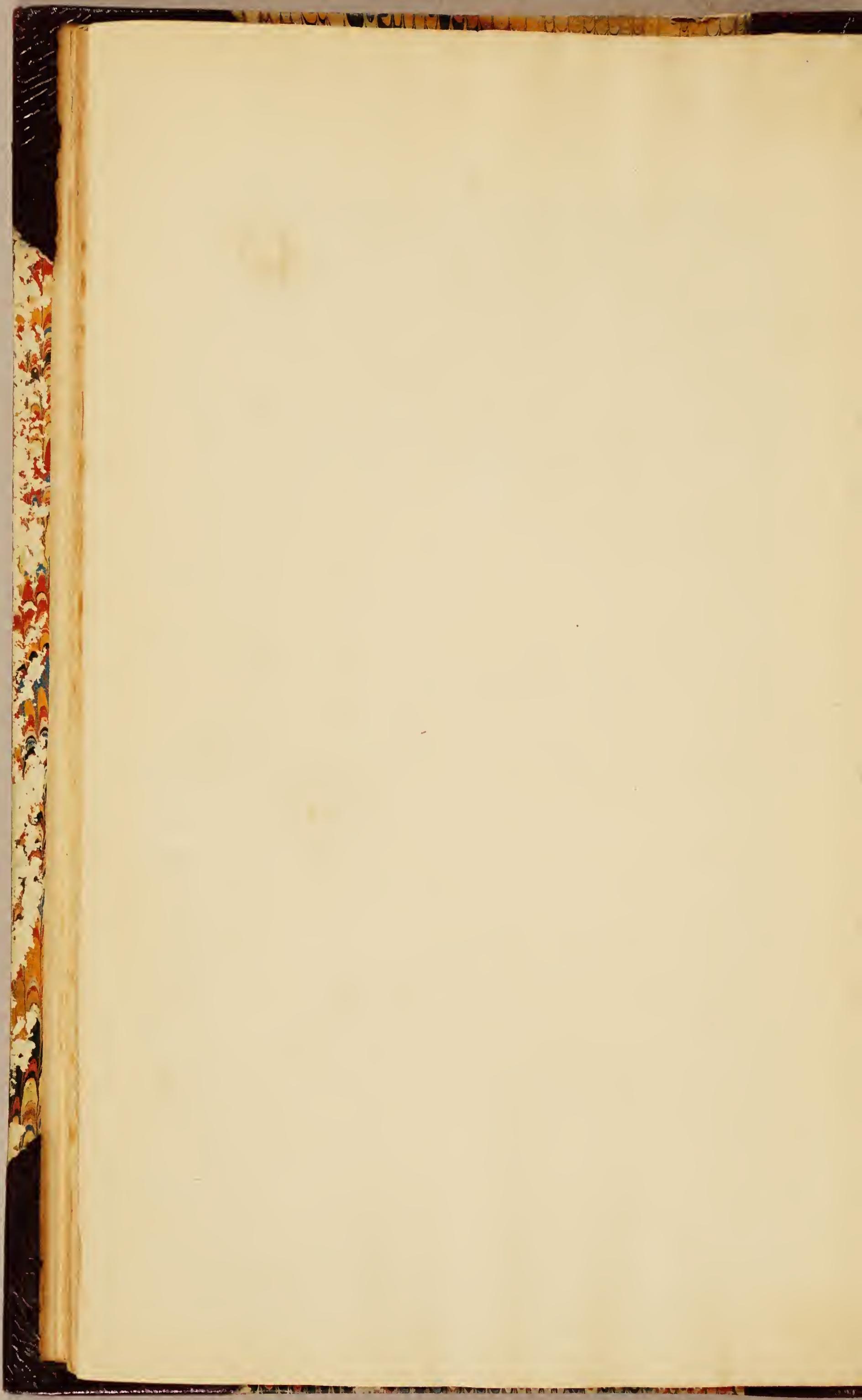
That any part of the land which shall appear, by the surveyor's report, to be well adapted to the growth of hemp or flax, it shall be a condition of the grant, that the grantee shall sow, and continue annually

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to cultivate a due proportion of the land, not less than one acre in every 1000, with that beneficial article of produce. And the governor or commander in chief of his majesty's province of East-Florida, for the time being, and all others whom it may concern, are required to carry his majesty's commands, hereby signified, into execution.

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